

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and members, the resolution that I offer to you on page 1835 in the Journal is one that I think deserves a lot of serious consideration by this Legislature. This is not your normal resolution asking to recognize some achievements of some basketball team or something, not that that is not important, but I believe that this has a lot of long term importance and would ask for your serious consideration of it. If you will turn to page 1835 in your Journal, you will see that the resolution addresses what I perceive to be the biggest problem facing the State of Nebraska today, and that is, the financial situation, the financial crisis, if you will that is developing in rural Nebraska. The problem that I foresee, I have visited with some banker friends out there is that because of some of the things that have happened in the past few months, particularly the Commonwealth situation, that the bank examiners of this state may be a little bit gunshy and may in fact be looking at the records of the various financial institutions with a little tougher eye than they have in the past. I think that could cause some severe problems and if you look at the article that is on your desk, the headline, this came out of the McCook Daily Gazette, the 19th of this month, the headlines says, "Examiners Tough on Farm Loans". If you will read the first three paragraphs, I think you will find the concern, and particularly the third paragraph, the third paragraph, and for those of you that might not have it or might not have saw it, the third paragraph says, "that tougher bank exams could force lenders to call in more farm loans, forcing the sale of even more land and farm machinery in an already depressed market, country bankers say." I can tell you when I go home, it is depressing to look at the number of sales on the windows of the various businesses in town, to look at the sale bills in the papers and to know that the prices are being depressed and what makes it even worse on an already bad situation. What we are asking for in this resolution is for the Department of Banking and the Governor to carefully examine their current policies and practices of regulating financial institutions which serve agriculture. That they examine and analyze the general and widespread trends in the lending industry, agricultural lending industry, and report those trends and give particular attention to the general